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SUBJECT Cotton production in Hungary

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Cotton growing in Hungary has no past whatsoever, and according to results to date, it has no future. That cotton is grown in Hungary at all is one of the inexplicable Soviet orders, which has many times and in other production fields, baffled economic experts. Hungarian agriculture is being forced to waste tremendous amounts of labor on cotton growing, since weather and soil conditions, as well as lack of experience, are a great hindrance.
2. In 1948 and 1949 cotton was only grown under glass in Hungary, and this only during winter. By 1949 it was tried outdoors on 600 cadastral acres, with the assistance of 1,400 specially assigned farmers. Simultaneously the government decreed that 12 scientific experimental plants must be set up for cotton growing. The authorities had a bad time that year, since weather conditions were worse than usual. The harvest was catastrophically late, and the average crop per acre was less than 300 kg. On the experimental farms, however, an average of 450 kgs per acre was grown. By 1950, thanks to Soviet stubbornness, 10,467 cadastral acres had to be planted with cotton.
3. In 1953 three times as much land as originally planned, had to be planted with cotton. Originally it was planned to increase the acreage to 100,000 cadastral acres by 1954. According to the newest plans, however, 200,000 cadastral acres is the figure authorities are now talking about.
4. Under favorable conditions good cotton pickers can pick daily 30 kgs. An attempt has been made to increase this figure to a daily average of 45 kgs. Here and there it was successful. In 1950 they experimented on 5 hect res of

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cotton at the Hortobágy. This however, met with disaster, since the icy winds in the fall completely destroyed the whole crop. Authorities nevertheless were not discouraged, and again and again experiments with cotton had to be made on the plains.

5. Best results in cotton growing were achieved in Makó, Babarc and Páldeák villages. At present the main cotton growing areas are in the counties of Tolna, Baranya and Csongrád. In these counties the following villages have grown cotton in larger quantities: Lányosok, Szajk, Majs, Nagynyárád, Siklós, Szentes, Mátételke, Kecskemét, Varosföld, Püspökbányó, Boly, Kanacs, Bacsbokod, Csátalja, Solt, Hécsegres, Igásiut, Polgárdi, Pusztaszabolos, Bácsalmás, Kutasiut, Gara, Klára Major, Bácsborsód, Mohácsi Sziget, Tamaspuszta, Berettyos, Deszk, Mindszent.
6. Cotton growing is under the cotton growing division of the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Imre Tatar. According to the opinion of experts the greatest difficulty of cotton growing lies in the fact that moisture of the soil cannot be preserved. In 1952 Hungary allegedly received some new cotton seeds from the USSR, which was better acclimatized to special Hungarian conditions. At the same time machinery also was imported. Among these were tractors, new type suspended cultivators, cotton cleaning and cotton picking combines. Lajos Koczor is number one deputy of the minister for state farms and forestry in all cotton problems. Until lately it was a great problem what to do with the cotton grown in Hungary, since until quite lately Hungary did not possess any machinery for cleaning cotton etc. Therefore a new plant has been set up on the Alföld, "Cotton Processing State Plant of Hodmezővásárhely". This plant began to work in the fall of 1952. The plant was built by the No. 65/5 High Construction State Enterprise, and is situated in the vicinity of Hodmezővásárhely. The plant is fully mechanized, has its own repair shop, and a large sized sulphuric acid tank, needed for the treatment of cotton seeds. The whole plant is scattered over an area of 25 cadastral acres. The main building is 3 stories high. The cotton processing machines are on the third floor. The machinery came from the USSR.
7. The plant serves a double purpose: First it supplies all state farms with cotton seeds, and second it supplies spinning industry with fine, white cotton yarn.
8. There are three large sized ground floor storage rooms in the plant, each 80 meters long and 20 meters wide. There is a long corridor in the middle from which the small storage rooms open, each containing four tons of cotton. The cotton is then sucked up by a pneumatic system to the processing section. Dust proofing is also done mechanically.
9. The bales are pressed mechanically. Seeds are processed and treated, dispatched to the state farms. Surplus seeds are allotted to the oil and soap industries. This enterprise is able to process regularly 100,000 kgs. of cotton per day.
10. Charles Pater, Rector of the Budapest University for Agriculture promised to build up a close scientific cooperation between the university, the ministries concerned and the plant. Up till the fall of 1953, however, nothing very much had been achieved except a few visits and promises by all parties.

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